

ANNUAL PROGRESS  
REPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY FOR  
2009-2010

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE  
IN EDUCATION

John F. Kennedy Catholic School  
Our Lady of Victory Parish



# INSIGHTS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Chad Steimle

The 2009-10 school year seemed to have an emphasis on facts and figures, a variety of which are included in this brochure. Looking at the numbers, I can only be amazed at the amount of growth that JFK has experienced over the last several years. Kindergarten through 8th grade enrollment has increased by more than 33% since 2004-05, and pre-school has nearly doubled.

Our capital campaign, "Growing Our Faith...Shaping Generations," could not come at a more needed time. As the building committee carefully works with an architect to design additions and renovations to areas of the church and school, I am eagerly anticipating the beginning of construction.

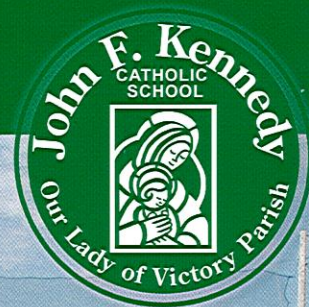
None of the growth of JFK could be done without Msgr. Parizek, Fr. Meyer, the parish and school staff, and you for making JFK so successful.

May God bless you and your families.

## COMMON STRENGTHS

IDENTIFIED BY PARENTS,  
STUDENTS, AND STAFF  
THROUGH THE SCHOOL  
CLIMATE SURVEY:

- FAITH, MORALS, VALUES
- DEDICATED, CARING STAFF
- SMALLER CLASS SIZES
- STRONG RELATIONSHIPS  
AND FRIENDSHIPS
- FAMILY ATMOSPHERE





# RELIGIOUS FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS AT JFK

## **Class Masses:**

Grades 1, 2, 7, and 8 sit together at class Masses on Tuesdays. Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 have class Masses on Thursdays.

## **First Friday Mass and Adoration:**

Students stay after Mass to participate in Adoration on the first Friday of each month.

## **All School Masses:**

These Masses are held at least twice per month. At all school Masses, kindergartners and 6th graders sit together.

## **Holy Days and Feast Days:**

Students attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and several other feast days throughout the year.

## **Vocations Day:**

Sixth and eighth graders attended diocesan retreats to promote religious vocations.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Over 220 JFK students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.

## **Lenten Goals:**

Students set weekly goals for prayer, fasting, and/or almsgiving.

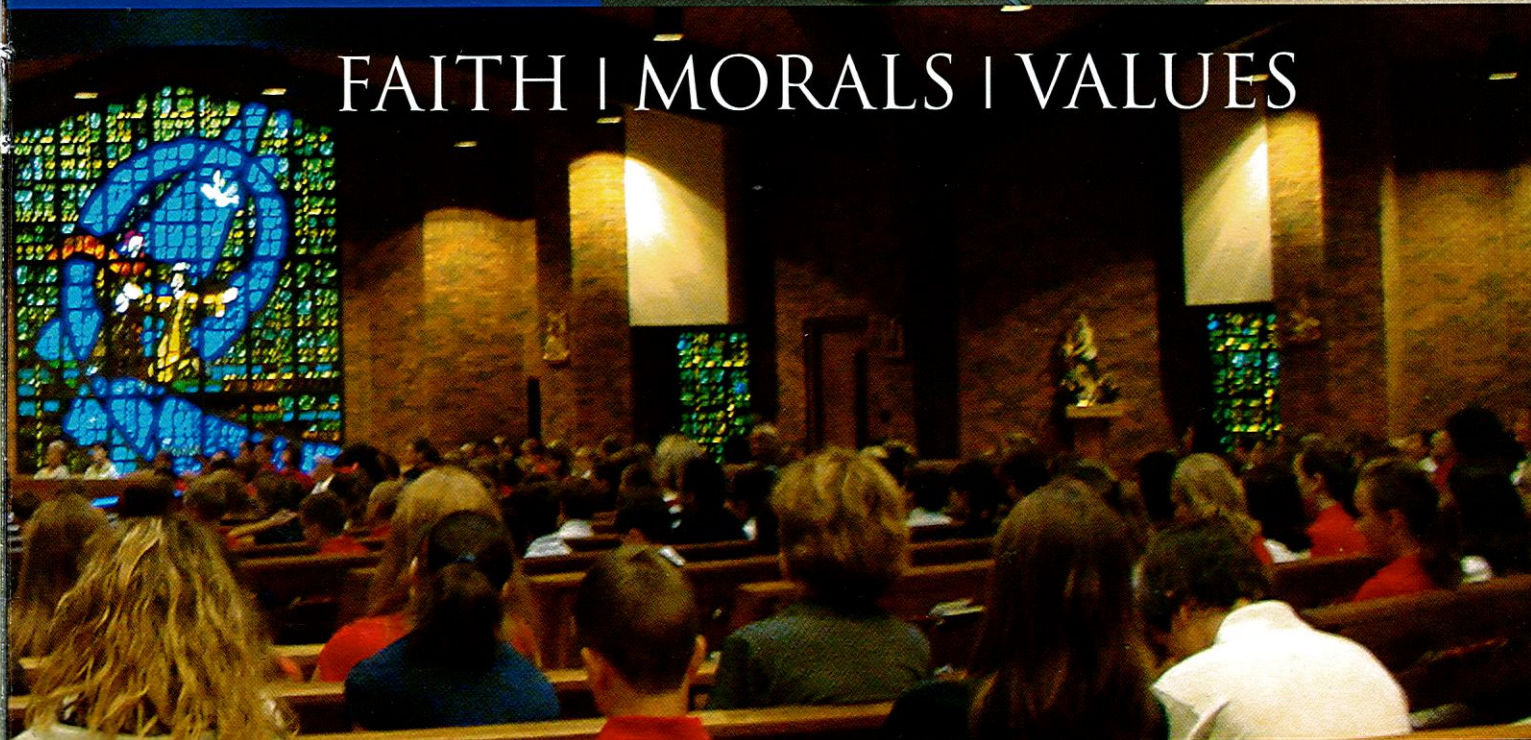
## **Celebrating With The Lord**

"Class Masses" are celebrated each week, and all school Masses are celebrated at least twice per month. During these Masses, Msgr. Parizek and Fr. Meyer direct their homilies to the appropriate age level for understanding. They involve the students by asking questions and using props to help students understand the true meaning of God's Word.

Students of every grade level are involved with "Mass parts." At the end of each Mass, Msgr. Parizek always comes over to thank the children for their participation in the "Mass parts," such as participating as lectors, song leaders and gift bearers.



# FAITH | MORALS | VALUES







### Enrollment and Program Growth

Since the 2004-05 school year, enrollment in kindergarten through 8th grade at JFK has increased by nearly 30%, from 260 students to 349. Pre-school enrollment has increased by over 80% in four years, from 56 students to over 100. With a total of about 450 students in the building, JFK is nearing its all-time high experienced in 1993.

Programming has also increased over the recent years. Our after school care program serves nearly 30% of the K-8 student population, and an Early Childhood Learning Center now offers year round full day child care services, summer only services, and day by day services. Summer programming at JFK, such as Vacation Bible School, art and science camps, and tutoring, reaches another 75 or more students.

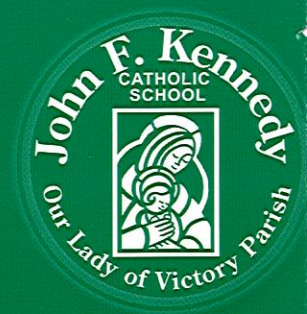
JFK's band program has experienced a great deal of growth over the last few years. In 2009-10, nearly 75% of JFK's 5th graders were in the beginning band, and about 50% of the 6th-8th graders were in band. Due to the increased numbers, new band uniforms were also needed for the 6th-8th graders, and the fifth graders moved into the green vested uniforms. By 2010-11, we may have so many students in band that we may have three bands.

Utilizing the 11.5 acres of land at JFK, students enjoy many outdoor activities. Students also learn lifelong sports such as bowling and golf.

Significant technology additions were made at JFK in 2009-10. Over 80 netbook computers were added to the expanded wireless network at JFK this year. This infusion of machines increased the student to laptop or netbook computer ratio to four to one at JFK.

In addition to computers, technology was infused into music and band at JFK. Students in grades 2-8 used new electronic keyboards to learn to play the piano and develop their knowledge of music theory. In band, students could sign up for SmartMusic and play along with a whole band as they practice their lessons and band music. Students can also submit their lessons to the JFK band teacher, Kim Hatcher, and receive feedback from her via the Internet.

## DEDICATED CARING STAFF





## Iowa Tests Of Basic Skills

### Results for Grades 3-8

JFK students score one to three grade levels above the national grade level equivalents on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. While the average score in science for a 5th grader nationwide would be 5.2, for example, a JFK 5th grader scored at a 7.6 grade level equivalent in 2009-10.

### Results For Grades 4 And 8

Reporting three years' worth of data for 4th and 8th graders' reading comprehension, math, and science ITBS scores to the community is one requirement of the Iowa Department of Education. Due to the small class sizes and

low numbers of males and females in each grade, fairly large year-to-year fluctuations can be seen.

JFK students do outstanding in the language arts (writing) section of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. Fifty percent of the 8th graders, for example, scored at least at a 12th grade level, and 20 of the 44 students scored at a 13+ grade level, the highest level reported on the ITBS.

### Local, State, National Comparisons

Local proficiency data according to ITBS scores must also be compared to state and national averages in reading and math for 4th graders and in reading, math, and science for 8th graders. The most recent data on the state website is for 2008-09.

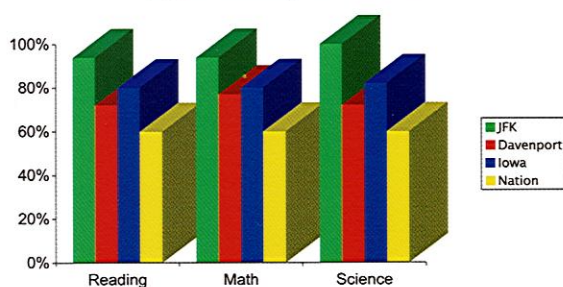
4th Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores

Year	Reading Comprehension			Math			Science		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
07-08	96%	100%	94%	89%	100%	88%	92%	100%	94%
08-09	97%	100%	95%	97%	100%	95%	100%	100%	100%
09-10	94%	94%	93%	94%	100%	87%	100%	100%	100%
3 year average	96%	98%	94%	93%	100%	90%	97%	100%	98%

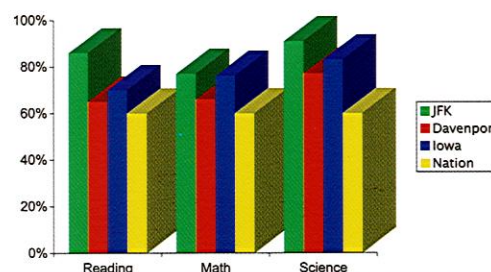
8th Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores

Year	Reading Comprehension			Math			Science		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
07-08	82%	83%	80%	85%	83%	87%	97%	95%	100%
08-09	89%	100%	77%	93%	100%	85%	96%	100%	92%
09-10	86%	80%	90%	77%	60%	86%	91%	73%	100%
3 year average	86%	88%	82%	85%	81%	86%	95%	89%	97%

4th Grade Proficiency Levels 2008-2009



8th Grade Proficiency Levels 2008-2009



## Annual Progress Report Goals

JFK sets and reports upon annual progress goals in relation to ITBS reading comprehension, math total, and science scores. The following are the goals for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

### Reading

2009-10: To increase the percent of female students in grade 8 who are proficient in reading comprehension without decreasing the overall percentage of 8th graders who are proficient.

08-09 Females: 77%, 09-10 Females: 90%  
Increase: 13%, 08-09 Total: 89%  
09-10 Total: 86%, Decrease: 3%

2010-11: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in reading comprehension in 7th grade in 2009 when they take the ITBS as 8th graders in 2010.

### Math

2009-10: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in math total in 6th grade in 2008 when they take the ITBS as 7th graders in 2009.

08-09: 74%, 09-10: 78%, Increase: 4%

2010-11: To increase the percent of male students who are proficient in math total in 7th grade in 2009 when they take the ITBS

as 8th graders in 2010 without decreasing the percent of female students who are proficient.

### Science

2009-10: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in science in 6th grade in 2008 when they take the ITBS as 7th graders in 2009.

08-09: 85%, 09-10: 80%, Decrease: 5%

2010-11: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in science in 7th grade in 2009 when they take the ITBS as 8th graders in 2010.



# STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIPS

## Dividends for Life

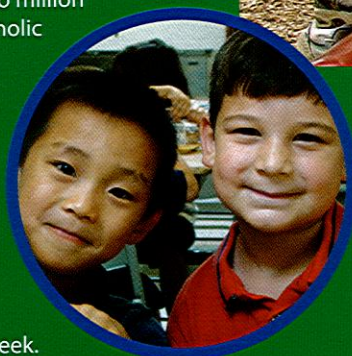
By Kate Friederichs, Sarah Gorzney, and Erica Peterson

"The Catholic school forms part of the saving mission of the Church, especially for education of the faith" (The Catholic Schools, 1977, #9). A school with such togetherness and faith is a wonderful environment for students to grow and learn. As Catholic school students for our whole lives, we believe that Catholic school education not only helps you grow in faith, but also in knowledge, morals, and self-discipline. In the current academic school year, there are over two million students receiving the benefits of a Catholic school education. Through successful programs and experiences, Catholic school education provides students with "Dividends for Life."

Faith is what sets Catholic schools apart from other educational environments. As a Catholic school community, students have the opportunity to attend and actively participate in Mass during the school week. Going to mass unifies our school and allows us to celebrate the wonders of Christ's presence. Not only do we experience our faith through Mass, but we also experience it through our regular school life. Praying every day before and after lunch and during religion classes allows students to have a close relationship with God. Every week students also have the opportunity to read and discuss Sacred Scripture. Our regular classes incorporate faith and provide us with the constant reminder that God is always in our lives. Through our every day activities in a Catholic school, we have the opportunity to walk our faith journey with the support of our teachers, family, and friends, receiving the sacraments as we grow. In a Catholic school, we are reminded that God is always there, and we know He is proud of us.

Knowledge is a key aspect in Catholic schools. Students work hard to achieve high academic goals. In Catholic schools, all students are considered "talented and gifted." Everyone has the opportunity to participate in activities such as mock trial, science fair, newspaper staff, civic oration, spelling and math bees, plays, and musical performances. Students are taught from an early age to use their skills and knowledge to help others gain knowledge. Teachers spend one-on-one time with students, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and receive homework help. Strong academics bring out the best in students and make them try to learn more.

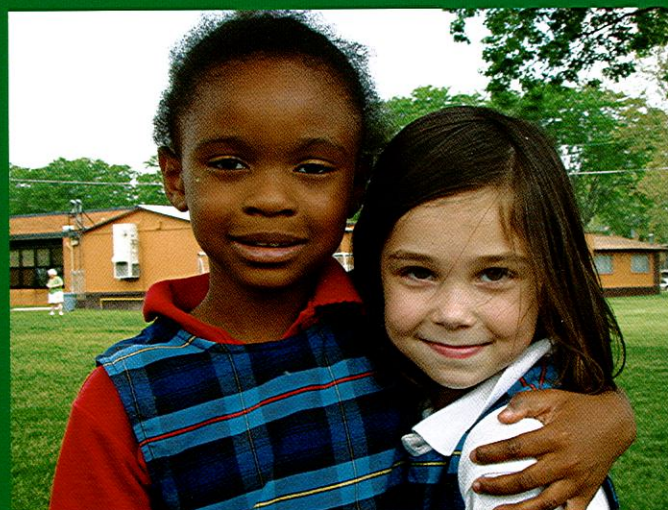
By attending a Catholic school, we not only get knowledge through our academics, but we are also exposed to high moral standards of right and wrong. We use Gospel Values such as courtesy, kindness, and honesty to guide us through our actions. As a student body, we show our manners toward each other and our



teachers. When we are faced with tough times and hard decisions, we use our conscience and faith to keep us on track.

As Catholic school students, we learn to be self-disciplined. When we are involved in extra after school activities, students are still responsible for homework and projects. We are also held accountable for our actions during and after school. We have a strong sense of respect for other students, teachers, parents and staff. Teamwork is not just talked about, it is shown. Students work together to help each other learn and communicate and discuss topics. With high expectations, we use self-discipline to guide us.

The choice of attending a Catholic school will stay with you forever and guide you on the right paths through life. Through faith, students know how to treat one another and love one another through Christ. To acquire knowledge, teachers push students to their highest potential and help prepare them for the future. Morals help students make good choices by following the Gospel Values. Catholic school discipline is taught through responsibility, respect, and teamwork. Catholic schools provide unique skills and opportunities that are necessary for life. We will never forget our Catholic school education because of the wonderful people we've met, the outstanding skills we've learned, and the dividends we've received for life.





# GROWING OUR FAITH AND SHAPING GENERATIONS

Collections for our capital campaign, "Growing Our Faith...Shaping Generations" continue to be strong, with over \$1.4 million collected on pledges of over \$2.3 million. Permission from the Diocese of Davenport was granted to begin work with an architect, and Scott Bengfort, from Larrison and Associates, has been working with a building committee to take us through the "design/development" stage. During this stage, the building committee is looking at details of how function and form can come together in ways that are affordable to our community. Architectural drawings should be completed and sent out for bids during the 2010-11 school year. While the process of working on details has taken us longer than originally expected, construction is planned to begin later in the 2010-11 school year as well.

Our Lady of Victory's building project seeks to enhance and renew the parish campus, providing for the needs of all generations of the community:

- Enhance the community and sacramental areas in church with a gathering space. The anticipated

scope of this project includes a gathering space, multipurpose rooms, ADA compliant restroom, an elevator, a permanent baptismal font, and a small kitchenette. With a focus on our Patroness' window and view of the altar, people will experience a new welcoming to the Sacraments.

- Expand the education and faith formation spaces to meet the needs of today's families and current educational standards. New and renovated classroom space will attempt to accommodate two sections of each grade level in pre-school through 8th grade at class sizes that meet today's standards of 20-25 pupils per room. The dependency on mobiles and shared classroom spaces will be reduced. New entryways and office areas will improve safety, security, efficiency, and privacy.

- Complete several large scale maintenance items that continue the process of renewing the infrastructure of the entire campus. Funds will be used to replace the church roof and gutters, redo the parking lot, and possibly replace the lighting and ceiling tiles in various areas of the school.





# JOHN F. KENNEDY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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## MISSION STATEMENT

John F. Kennedy Catholic School, as the Roman Catholic School of Our Lady of Victory Parish, partners with families in accepting and loving children as unique gifts of God. Through our caring and nurturing parish community, we will help all children identify and share their gifts and talents and develop a Christ-centered character, live their Catholic faith, and achieve academic excellence as they become disciples of Christ.

FAITH | MORALS | VALUES

